

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 105737

O R 201758Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8090

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02231

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE IMPACT ON EUROPE
AND THE ALLIANCE

REF: STATE 32337

BEGIN SUMMARY THERE IS NO SENSE OF ALARM AMONG BRITISH
OFFICIALS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY
CONFERENCE ON EUROPE AND THE ALLIANCE. THEY ARE
PUZZLED OVER FRENCH MOTIVES, AND THEY BELIEVE THAT IT
IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY DEFINITIVE JUDGMENTS.
OVER THE SHORT RUN, HOWEVER, THEY EXPECT THAT ALL THE
EC MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING FRANCE, WILL TRY TO
ENSURE THAT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE HAS AS LITTLE

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IMPACT AS POSSIBLE ON THE COMMUNITY'S DAY-TO-DAY

BUSINESS. THE BRITISH SUSPECT THAT THE MORE LASTING EFFECTS OF THE CONFERENCE MAY, IN FACT, BE SALUTARY, BOTH FOR INTRA-COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND FOR THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY

1. THE BRITISH CONSIDER THAT THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE ON THE COMMUNITY WAS ONE OF SHOCK. AS OLIVER WRIGHT (DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, FCO) PUT IT, THE PROPER TREATMENT FOR SHOCK IS WARM TEA AND LOTS OF REST. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR ANY DRAMATIC NEW INITIATIVES BY THE COMMISSION OR ANY MEMBER STATE, AS THESE COULD PUT THE FRENCH ON THE SPOT AND AGGRAVATE THE DIVISIVE EFFECTS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN WASHINGTON.

2. SO FAR, ON THE BASIS OF THIS WEEK'S AGRICULTURE AND FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETINGS, THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY IS MANAGING TO CARRY ON ITS BUSINESS AS USUAL. BETTER TESTS WILL BE THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING ON FEBRUARY 22, THE MINISTERIAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS ON MARCH 4, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON MARCH 4-5. THESE MEETINGS SHOULD CLARIFY FRENCH MOTIVES. THE BRITISH ARE STILL FRANKLY PUZZLED BY JOBERT'S BEHAVIOR IN WASHINGTON. THEY ARE AWARE OF SPECULATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE CORRIDORS IN WASHINGTON, THAT THE EXPLANATION IS TO BE FOUND IN INTERNAL FRENCH POLITICS, BUT SOME DO NOT FIND THIS TOTALLY CONVINCING. THEY DOUBT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A BASIC SHIFT IN FRENCH POLICY IN THE DIRECTION OF A RETURN TO HARD-LINE GAULLISM, AND ARE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE JOBERT'S OBSTANCY TO FRANCE'S WELL-KNOWN SENSITIVITY OVER "PARTNERSHIP," "INTERDEPENDENCE," AND NEW ATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS -- AND THUS TO ITS FEAR THAT EUROPE WILL "LOSE ITS IDENTITY" IF IT COOPERATES TOO CLOSELY WITH THE US.

3. ASSUMING THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN A BASIC SHIFT IN FRENCH POLICY, THE BRITISH EXPECT THAT, OVER THE SHORT RUN, THE UK, FRANCE SFD GERMANY WILL TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE EVENTS AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CON-
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ERENCE HAVE AS LITTLE IMPACT AS POSSIBLE ON THE COMMUNITY'S DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS. THE BRITISH EXPECT THAT THE FRG, AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EC COUNCIL, WILL TRY TO AVOID ANY AGGRAVATION OF FRANCE'S SENSE OF ISOLATION. THEY DO NOT EXPECT THE FRENCH TO SULK IN A CORNER. THERE WILL BE A LACK OF "WARM FEELING" IN THE COMMUNITY FOR A WHILE, BUT THIS IN ITSELF WILL NOT NECESSARILY HOLD UP DISCUSSIONS ON AGRICULTURAL

PRICES OR THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND. AS FOR THE
MAJOR PROBLEMS, LIKE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION OR
AN EC RESPONSE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS, THE COMMUNITY WILL
FIND IT AS DIFFICULT NOW TO COPE WITH THEM AS IT DID
BEFORE THE WASHINGTON MEETING. ONE HIGH BRITISH

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----- 105816

O R 201758Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8091

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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EXDIS

OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT THE SPLIT WITH FRANCE AT
WASHINGTON WILL DELAY EVEN FURTHER THE TIMETABLE FOR
EMU, WHICH HE NOW BELIEVES WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO
ACHIEVE BY 1980.

4. OVER THE MEDIUM TERM, THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT
SOME OF THE MORE LASTING EFFECTS OF THE WASHINGTON
ENERGY CONFERENCE ON THE COMMUNITY MAY -- ON BALANCE

-- BE SALUTARY. BRITISH OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE CONFERENCE MARKED A WATERSHED IN THE COMMUNITY'S INTERNAL POLITICS, WITH THE GERMANS AT LAST DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO CARRY THEIR POLITICAL WEIGHT WHERE NECESSARY. ON THE BASIS OF THIS GERMAN LEAD, THE EIGHT SHOWED THAT THEY WILL GO AHEAD WITHOUT FRANCE IF FORCED TO DO SO INSTEAD
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OF CONCENTRATING ON PRESERVING THE UNITY OF THE NINE AT ALL COSTS. THE FRENCH WILL NOW HAVE TO THINK TWICE ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO IMPOSE FRENCH POLICY POSITIONS ON THE EC.

5. THE FACT THAT THIS CONFRONTATION OCCURRED OVER THE ISSUE OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL, ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH. HENCEFORTH, THE EIGHT MAY BE LESS AFRAID OF AGGRAVATING THE FRENCH, AND THUS MORE WILLING TO CONSULT WITH THE US WHILE THE COMMUNITY IS DEVELOPING ITS POSITIONS ON GIVEN ISSUES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE BRITISH HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE FRENCH THAT BY TAKING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP INTO ACCOUNT AND BY CONSULTING WITH THE US, THE COMMUNITY IS NOT NECESSARILY SACRIFICING ITS IDENTITY.

6. AS TO NATO, THE BRITISH FEEL THAT THE EVENTS IN WASHINGTON MAY DIMINISH SOMEWHAT FRENCH READINESS, NOTICED OF LATE, TO BE A LITTLE MORE COOPERATIVE IN THE ALLIANCE. BY THE SAME TOKEN, BRITISH WILL BE DOUBLY CAREFUL TO OBSERVE THE FORMS AND NICETIES IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE FRENCH, AND NOT TO CROSS THEM UNNECESSARILY. THAT SAID, THE BRITISH DOUBT THAT THE AFTERMATH OF THE ENERGY CONFERENCE WILL AFFECT NATO MUCH; IT IS MAINLY SOMETHING FOR THE EC TO SORT OUT. FURTHER THAN THAT, LONG-TERM BRITISH THINKING TOWARDS NATO IS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH FRG THINKING (BONN 2702, PARA 10). BOTH ARE DETERMINED TO RESIST ANY FRENCH EFFORTS TO DEVELOP EUROPEAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS OUTSIDE NATO.

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